

CLASSIFICATION <u>SECRET</u>		
COUNTRY <u>East Germany</u>	REPORT	
TOPIC <u>Military Installations in Gera and Zeitz</u>		
EVALUATION	PLACE OBTAINED	
DATE OF CONTENT		
DATE OBTAINED	DATE PREPARED <u>20 August 1954</u>	
REFERENCES		
PAGES <u>2</u>	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	
REMARKS		
This is UNEVALUATED		

- Between 19 and 26 July 1954, the Reuss Kaserne (8141) in Gera was occupied by an estimated 1,500 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery, signal and motor transport insignia. Between 19 and 22 July, approximately 8 caterpillar tractors, each towing a 100-mm AT gun, and several trucks daily left the barracks for the training area on Weinberg in the morning or evening. The column returned after about 12 hours. At 0530 on 26 July, 37 caterpillar tractors, each carrying approximately 10 soldiers, and about 45 trucks, each carrying 12 to 15 soldiers, left the installation toward Langenberg, north of Gera. Twenty-four of the caterpillar tractors towed 100-mm AT guns. The column, which included several field kitchens, returned to the installation from the direction of Langenberg at about 2030.
- On 29 July, 20 x 100-mm AT guns, 2 x 57-mm AT guns, 22 caterpillar tractors, 26 motor vehicles and 2 field kitchens from Reuss Kaserne were entrained for Altengrabow at the Gera freight station. The shipment, which included 13 boxcars with soldiers and equipment, left at about 1800. At 1300 on 30 July, 16 x 100-mm AT guns, 18 caterpillar tractors, 2 field kitchens and 28 trucks were unloaded in Gera from a train which had arrived from Altengrabow.

The shipment included 14 boxcars.

According to railroadmen, this was the third shipment from Altengrabow which was detrained in Gera in the morning on 30 July.
- On 23 July, the Reuss Kaserne in Gera was occupied by an estimated 2,000 soldiers. Between 22 and 29 July, units with trucks, prime movers and guns repeatedly departed from, and returned to, the installation, according to local residents. Firing with machine guns was practiced in the training area north of Untermhaus. On 31 July, the installation appeared to be occupied to capacity. A total of 120 trucks and YA-12 prime movers were inspected in the installation throughout the day. Motor vehicles

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECRET

- 2 -

[redacted] were seen en route to and from the installation. 1

4. On 22 July, the Panzer Kaserne (8142) in Tinz was occupied by a rear detail of about 150 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and, on 30 July, by an estimated 400 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. 2
5. Between 19 July and 1 August, the Artillerie Kaserne (8542) in Zeitz was occupied as previously by about 100 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. In the afternoon on 20 July, 6 T-34/85 tanks [redacted] entered the installation and were parked between the tank sheds. The tanks came from the Zeitz Forest. On 23 July, 4 T-34/85 tanks [redacted] left the installation toward Gera. 3
6. Between 19 July and 1 August, the Infanterie Kaserne (8541) in Zeitz was occupied by about 1,000 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets. A rocket launcher was seen near the sheds. Several platoons, each of 30 soldiers, with light infantry weapons frequently left toward, or returned from, the Zeitz Forest. On 30 July, a column of 34 trucks towing 8 x 57-mm AT guns, 4 x 85-mm AT guns and 4 x 160-mm mortars went from the Zeitz Forest toward Infanterie Kaserne. Motor vehicles [redacted] were seen. 4
7. On 24 and 25 July and 1 August, firing practices involving tanks, SP guns, AT guns, mortars, machine guns and rifles were held in the Zeitz Forest. The area was cordoned off. It was the impression that NVP units also participated in the exercise in this area. 5
1. [redacted] Comment. According to paragraphs 1 and 2, three shipments of elements of the 328th Arty Brig were dispatched to Altengrabow from Gera on 17 July. The present report indicates that these elements returned on 30 July. After the movement to Altengrabow of additional elements on 29 July, the bulk of the brigade had transferred for exercises. The cleaning and inspection of vehicles on 31 July confirms the return of major elements of the brigade.
2. [redacted] Comment. The firing detail of 14 tanks and SP guns of the tank training unit which went from Gera to the Letzling Heath on 25 July, may have returned to the post prior to 30 July.
3. [redacted] Comment. The information fails to indicate any change in the occupation of the military installations in Zeitz prior to 1 August. [redacted]
4. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] the AT guns presumably belonged to the 20th Gds Mech Div.
5. [redacted] Comment. The firing practices and exercises in the Zeitz Forest apparently continued until late July.

NO D E X

SECRET